United Nations E/CN.5/2008/L.4

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
12 February 2008

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Forty-sixth session
6-15 February 2008
Item 3
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Antigua and Barbuda:* draft resolution

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Reaffirming* that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,[2] as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

"*Recalling* its previous resolutions concerning persons with disabilities, including the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly,

"*Acknowledging* that the majority of the 650 million persons with disabilities in the world live in conditions of poverty,

"*Acknowledging also* the vulnerability faced by women and girls living with disabilities, as they are subject to aggravated and multiple discrimination,

"*Convinced* that addressing the profound social, cultural and economic disadvantage experienced by many persons with disabilities and that

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 Mach 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

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promoting the progressive removal of barriers to their full and effective participation in all aspects of development will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a society for all in the twenty-first century,

"*Welcoming* the fact that since the opening for signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[3] and its Optional Protocol[4] on 30 March 2007, one hundred and twenty-three States have already signed and fifteen States have ratified the Convention and sixty-nine States have signed and nine States have ratified the Optional Protocol, and calling upon those States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention and the Optional Protocol as a matter of priority,

"*Concerned* that halfway through the target date of 2015, the situation of persons with disabilities as a group has not been adequately considered, including in the discussions and reports on the Millennium Development Goals,

"1. *Expresses concern* about the persistent gap between policy and practice regarding mainstreaming the perspective of persons with disabilities, including their rights and well-being, in the work of the United Nations in realizing the Millennium Development Goals;

"2. *Encourages* States, entities of the United Nations system and other members of the international community to take advantage of the range of international normative and policy instruments on disability, including the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[5] the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,[6] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[3] in guiding their efforts to ensure that the issues that affect persons with disabilities, including the perspective of persons with disabilities, are incorporated into the formulation of policies, the conduct of their mandate and missions and their budget allocations, aiming at the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in development, both as beneficiaries and agents;

"3. *Invites* States, United Nations entities, including the funds and programmes, and regional and international financial and development institutions, civil society and the private sector to consider and include issues that affect persons with disabilities, including the perspective of persons with disabilities, when developing their work strategies and action plans to promote the education and training of their staff and personnel so as to enable increased sensitivity, knowledge and skills required to understand how to address disability issues in their respective mandates and work;

"4. *Requests* United Nations entities, including funds and programmes, and regional and international financial institutions to include issues that affect persons with disabilities, including the perspective of persons with disabilities, when planning country offices;

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[3] General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] A/37/351/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV).

[6] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

"5. *Urges* States, United Nations entities, including the funds and programmes, regional and international financial and development institutions, civil society and the private sector to give priority to the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for persons with disabilities, as a key factor in ensuring that persons with disabilities benefit from development on an equal basis with others, and fully enjoy all human rights, including the right to work and the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted, including by providing access to education and training, access to microcredit schemes and entrepreneurial opportunities, fostering a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities, and promoting inclusive employment and human resources policies and reasonable accommodation in the workplace;

"6. *Also urges* States, United Nations entities, including the funds and programmes, regional and international financial and development institutions, civil society and the private sector to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making on issues that concern them;

"7. *Stresses* the need to enhance the accountability of all actors, including within the highest levels of decision-making, in the work of mainstreaming disability in the development agenda, including in the assessment of the impact of development efforts on the situation of persons with disabilities;

"8. *Recognizes* the strategic importance of complementing efforts towards the mainstreaming of the issues that affect persons with disabilities, including the perspective of persons with disabilities, including while considering the allocation of resources;

"9. *Encourages* all States, concerned intergovernmental organizations and international organizations, civil society and the private sector to engage in cooperative arrangements that aim at providing necessary technical and expert assistance to enhance capacities in mainstreaming issues that affect persons with disabilities, including the perspective of persons with disabilities, in development efforts, and in this regard encourages the United Nations Secretariat and other relevant bodies to find improved ways to enhance international technical cooperation;

"10. *Encourages* States to mainstream disability in poverty eradication policies and strategies, and in this regard encourages the international community to provide support and assistance;

"11. *Urges* all States, international and regional organizations and civil society to ensure that international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

"12. *Urges* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including agencies, funds and programmes, and invites international and regional development organizations and financial institutions, to take concrete measures to incorporate issues that affect persons with disabilities, including the perspective of persons with disabilities, and accessibility requirements into development cooperation and development finance activities;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution for submission to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-seventh session; and looks forward to the forthcoming fifth review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, including its updating, to be conducted by the General Assembly in 2008 and the guidance that the background report of the Secretary-General will provide, particularly in the area of improving disability mainstreaming."